

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE AIRPORT COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Airport Commission convened in a regular session on Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. In the absence of Chairperson Donnellan, Vice-Chairperson Fitch led the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Dingman, Jacobsen, Tymczyszyn, and Vice-Chairperson Fitch.

Absent: Commissioners Hsiao, Orpe, and Chairperson Donnellan.

Also Present: Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian.

MOTION: Vice-Chairperson Fitch moved to grant Commissioners Hsiao, Orpe, and Chairperson Donnellan excused absences for the May 13, 2010 Commission meeting. Commissioner Tymczyszyn seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Hope Witkowsky led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Vice-Chairperson Fitch, seconded by Commissioner Jacobsen, moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2010

MOTION: Vice-Chairperson Fitch moved to approve the April 8, 2010 Airport Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Dingman seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Hsiao, Orpe, and Chairperson Donnellan).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

6A. Richard Root, Via Buena Ventura, submitted a May 11, 2010 letter from Roberta Blowers, President, Riviera Homeowners Association. He related his understanding that the roundtable meeting hosted by the Professional Helicopter Pilots Association (PHPA) is scheduled for late June 2010. He stated that the meeting would be limited in resolving differences and should be open to the public so all affected parties could have an opportunity to provide input. He stated that one of Commission's functions is to advise

City Council on Airport noise and requested that it should address the issue and place a discussion item on the June 2010 Commission meeting agenda.

6b. John Bailey, Walnut Street, President, Southeast Torrance Homeowners Association, stated that the Commission also has a duty to perform community outreach on Airport issues. He proposed that the Commission lead the roundtable meeting rather than the President of the PHPA. He stated that it appears that fixed wing aircraft operators are being left out of the discussion. He distributed a February 26, 1999 Los Angeles Times article, August 20, 1999 Daily News article, and 2001 AviationNow.com article regarding Robert Butler, President of the PHPA.

6c. Hope Witkowsky, Mesa Street, stated that helicopter noise has been getting worse since 2001; in addition, some fixed wing planes are turning and going over the hill of her home. She stated that home values are diminishing and quality of life is being affected. She recommended that the City expedite the roundtable meeting, take over leadership of it, and allow the public to participate.

Responding to Vice-Chairperson Fitch's inquiry, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that the meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2010 and that members of the airfield helicopter operators, certain members of the community, City staff, Coast Guard, FAA, PHPA, and Chairperson Donnellan have been invited to attend. He stated that the meeting was proposed by PHPA but offered to take the suggestions back to the City team for direction and to bring back an update.

6d. Joe Arciuch, Kathryn Avenue, stated that homeowners used to have good communication with the tower and FAA, but since 2002 the situation has changed. He stated that aircraft are flying further west and begin making turns over Anza Avenue and his home. He maintained that the Noise Abatement System is not 100% operational because it does not have real time flight tracking as is contractually required.

7. ACTION ITEMS - NONE

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

8C. NOISE ABATEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT - NONE

This item was taken out of order.

Vice-Chairperson Fitch questioned why it takes so long for the Commission to receive Noise Abatement Quarterly Reports.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian responded that he received the report in April 2010 but had a problem trying to format and print it. He advised that he would provide the report for January, February, and March 2010 at the June 10, 2010 Commission meeting.

8A. AERONAUTICAL OPERATIONAL INFORMATION UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Vice-Chairperson Fitch noted that the following reports for April 2010 were included in agenda material: Hangar and Tie down Rental Status, Ongoing Projects, May 2010 Meeting Room Schedule, Hangar Waiting List, Events Requiring Emergency Response, and Airfield Operations Status.

In response to Commissioner Dingman's inquiry regarding two aircraft parked in the transit area, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that permanent tie-downs are being taken up by the Robinson Helicopter expansion right now.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian reviewed Report 2, Ongoing Projects, and reported that hangar electrical upgrades continue in rows 2729/31 and 2719/23 and that they are waiting on Southern California Edison to do tie-ins.

Responding to Commissioner Jacobsen's inquiry regarding Report 5, Events Requiring Emergency Response, he stated that the high number of flat tires was just a coincidence.

Commissioner Fitch received clarification that Torrance Fire Department does not charge for its services.

John Bailey inquired why there were so many flights in March 2010 and Commissioner Tymczyszyn responded that the weather started clearing up and flight training resumed.

8B. LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT – AERONAUTICAL - NONE

8D. AIRPORT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

There was a consensus of Commissioners to consider this item at tonight's meeting even though there were three absences.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian noted that the audited financial statements for the Airport Fund for fiscal year ended June 30, 2009 was included in agenda packets. He explained that the Airport Fund is broken up into aeronautical (inside the fence) and non-aeronautical (properties around the Airport) portions. He presented the Statement of Net Assets on page 2, with comparative totals for prior year, of total of both aeronautical and non-aeronautical, noting total cash and assets of \$13,578,184. He reviewed Page 3, the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets, and noted the \$5,842,972 that was transferred to the General Fund for City operations. He added that one of the main stipulations in accepting Federal monies was that the Airport would not be able to transfer funds to the City. He briefly reviewed the Statement of Cash Flows on Page 4, and stated that the aeronautical portion brings in enough to break even while the non-aeronautical portion generates significant income for the City.

In response to Commissioner Jacobsen's inquiry, he stated that capital projects at the Airport are funded through the Airport Fund.

Mr. Arciuch stated that it is hard to see what is aeronautical and non-aeronautical in this report and Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian responded that he presented an overview, referring him to the City Clerk's Office for more detailed information.

Mr. Arciuch initiated discussion regarding the control tower. Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that the City owns and maintains the structure while the FAA has a lease with the City for use of the tower and maintains everything inside of it.

Ms. Witkowsky congratulated staff and Commission because the City is so fortunate to have the land surrounding the Airport, to have Robinson Helicopter, and all the monies that the Airport generates.

Commissioner Tymczyszyn stated that Torrance stands alone versus other small airports in the country by not taking Federal or State money. Referring to the tower, he questioned why the City keeps refurbishing it and suggested that the FAA should have to build a new one.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian distributed a presentation on the City's Budget status that was presented by the City Manager office to all City Departments. He distributed a general overview of the City Budget and challenges in FY 2009-10 and 2010-11. He described major revenue sources—Utility User's Tax, Sales Tax, Property Tax, Occupancy, and Business License—and noted that revenue from Sales Tax and Utility User's Tax has significantly decreased while Property Tax remains consistent. He reported a projected deficit of \$8 million for 2009-10 and \$9 million for 2010-11. He stated that the City has already taken steps to reduce the 2009-10 deficit by not filling vacant positions in order to balance the budget by June 30, 2010. He explained that Torrance is in a better position than many other cities because it still has a reserve account. He stated that all Departments are being asked submit scenarios for potential efficiencies, reductions, and revenue opportunities to meet the shortfall, with the goal of trying not to disrupt City services as much as possible. He stated that Torrance is a conservative city that manages its money well and encouraged Commissioners to attend the Budget Workshops on May 25 and June 15, 2010.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

9A. Commissioner Tymczyszyn stated that the PHPA roundtable meeting sounds interesting and noted that helicopters are subject to the same noise limits as fixed wing aircraft but they can fly lower. He provided background on the subcommittee that assisted in recommending a vendor in 2004 for the noise abatement system. He concurred with Mr. Arciuch that the vendor assured them that there would be real time tracking. He expressed disappointment with the progress of the Airport Security System approved in 2004. He stated that the System was supposed to include security video cameras at Airport entrances and runways and so far all that has been installed is fencing.

9B. Commissioner Jacobsen stated that the public should be included in the PHPA roundtable meeting if it is truly community outreach, adding that it needs to be a moderated discussion.

9C. Commissioner Tymczyszyn stated that in 2004 he was also on the Community Outreach and Education subcommittee but that the public showed no interest in expressing concerns.

9D. Vice-Chairperson Fitch thanked staff for revising the Commission Annual Report.

9E. Vice-Chairperson Fitch announced the Armed Forces Day parade on May 15, 2010 and noted that tickets are sold out for the two Coast Guard Band performances.

9F. Richard Root stated that helicopters are flying too low and by a route agreement between the FAA and operators at the Airport, adding that Robinson helicopters fly higher than other operators.

9G. Joe Arciuch stated that Long Beach shows real time tracking in Torrance but the Torrance system shows nothing. He expressed frustration that every time he calls the Noise Abatement center he only gets the answering machine and that the farthest west being monitored is Ocean Avenue.

9H. Commissioner Jacobsen requested an excused absence for the June 10, 2010 Commission meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:36 p.m., Commissioner Tymczyszyn moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, June 10, 2010 in the West Annex meeting room at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Jacobsen seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Vice-Chairperson Fitch so ordered.

Approved as Amended June 10, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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